

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document submitted March 25, 2004.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 25, 2004.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 4-16 are hereby added. Only claim 1 stands rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 3 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

Specification Objection

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for using legal terminology. Although Applicants do not agree that the term “means” recited therein is necessarily “legal” terminology, the Abstract is hereby amended to eliminate the cited terminology (to speed prosecution of the Application). Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(3) as being anticipated by *Hac et al.* (US 6,549,842 B1; hereinafter “*Hac*”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that *Hac* discloses all of the features of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that *Hac* fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the recited “delay means for delaying said specific signal on a predetermined unitary time basis.”

While the Examiner alleges that column 17 of *Hac* discloses such a feature, Applicants disagree. Rather, the only “delay” disclosed in column 17 of *Hac* is that between the yaw rate and steering angle, which is an effect of the normal delay between directing a vehicle to turn by the steering wheel, and the car actually turning. This “delay” is not specifically provided by a “delay means” similar to the invention, but is only a normal effect of *Hac*’s system.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 4-16 are hereby added. Claims 4-8 are dependent from independent claim 1, are fully supported by the instant Application, and are respectfully submitted to be allowable both by virtue of their dependency, and by virtue of the features recited therein. Claims 9-16 are similar to claims 1-8, but recite the features of the invention without use of the term “means.” Claims 9-16 are: (1) fully supported by the instant Application, and (2) allowable, for the same reasons as claims 1-8.

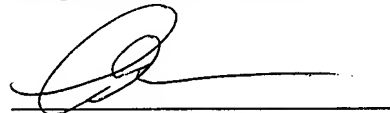
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-16.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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